



## GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

February 16, 1998



### UPCOMING EVENTS...

Feb. 20-24	International Specialized Trade Fair Grains '98	Moscow, Russia	yamfid@dol.ru
Feb. 21-25	Grain Elevator and Processing Society-GEAPS Exchange '98	San Antonio, TX	(619) 339-4625 Info@geaps.com
Feb. 22-24	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Corn Growers Assn. And Soybean Assn. Convention	Long Beach, CA	(314) 275-9915
Feb. 23-24	USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum	Washington, DC	agforum@oce.usda.gov (202) 720-3050
Mar. 8-10	102 <sup>nd</sup> Annual National Grain and Feed Assoc. Convention	Orlando, FL	www.ngfa.org (202) 289-0873
Mar. 9-10	National Waterways Conference on FY 1999 Civil Works Funding	Washington, DC	www.waterways.org
May 4-6	American Feed Industry Assn. Annual Convention	Dallas, TX	(703) 524-0810

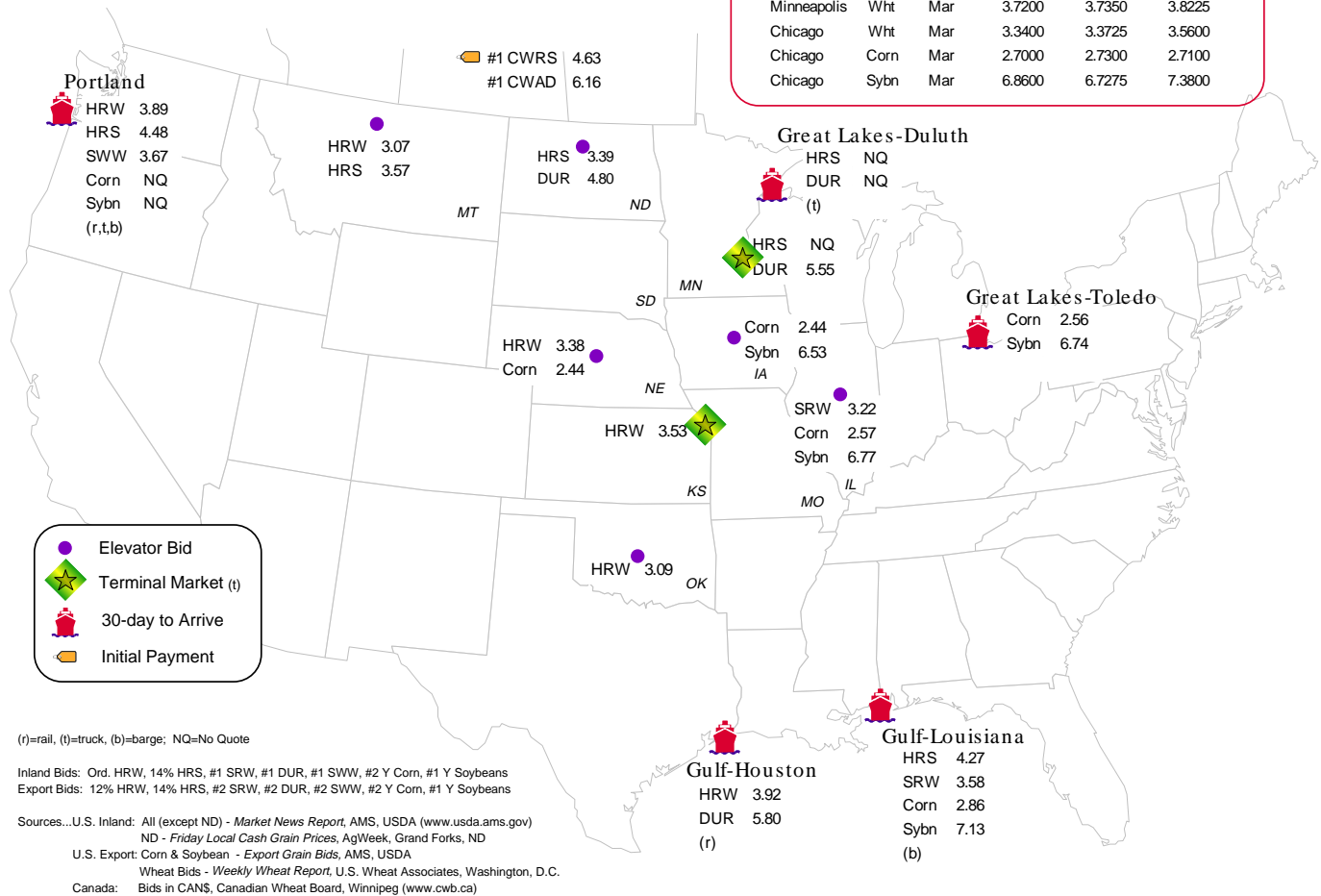
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This report is prepared by Nick Marathon and Karl Hacker, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1303. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/ams/tmd/grain.htm](http://www.usda.gov/ams/tmd/grain.htm). E-mail comments to [Nick\\_Marathon@USDA.gov](mailto:Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov).

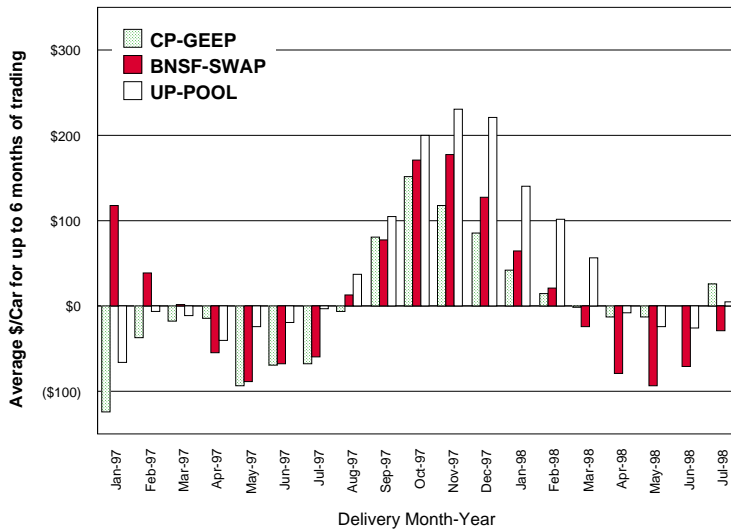
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## Grain Bid Summary

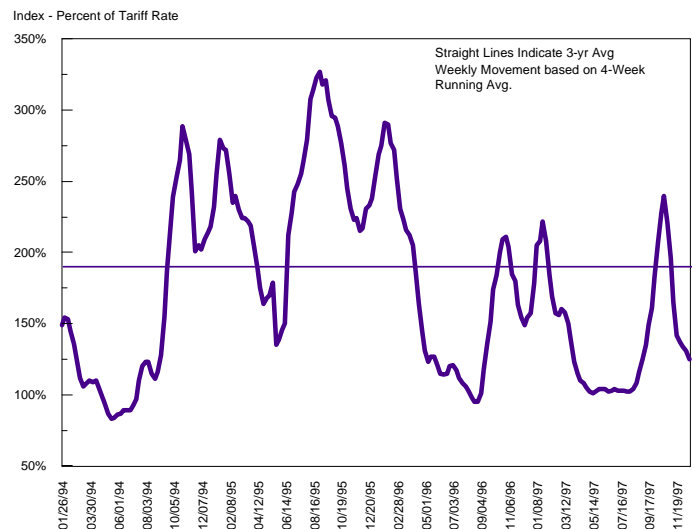


## Secondary Rail Market Bids



See the Grain Trax page at [www.ugpti.org](http://www.ugpti.org) for more graphs of rail premiums.

## Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



<b>Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings</b>				
Delivery for:	Mar-98		Apr-98	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
<b>BNSF-COT</b>	21,209	41%	18,928	1%
<b>UP-GCAS</b>	5,400	51%	5,400	0%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

**Secondary Rail Car Market**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	<b>Delivery Period</b>			
	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98
BNSF-COT	\$(285)	\$(266)	\$(221)	\$(205)
CP-GEEP	\$(163)	\$(149)	\$(149)	\$(112)
UP-Pool		\$(118)	\$(104)	\$(100)

Source: T&amp;M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only &amp; are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

**Railroad Car 'Auction' Results**

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Mar-98	May-98	Jun-98
COT/N. Wheat	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Corn	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid		
GCAS/Region 4	no bid		

Source: T&M/AMS USDA. Data from [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com), [www.uprr.com](http://www.uprr.com), (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Contract Rates\***

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
2/6/98	no trades reported		

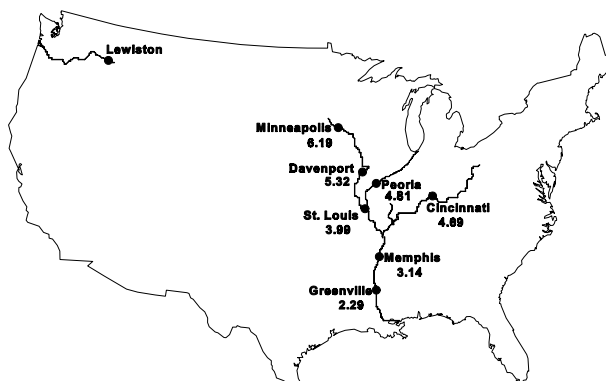
**Southbound Barge Freight Rates**

	2/11/98	2/4/98	March '98	May '98
Twin Cities	nq	nq	148	138
Mid-Mississippi	nq	nq	128	121
Illinois River	107	119	113	109
St. Louis-Cairo	86	99	94	90
Lower Ohio	106	116	111	109
Cairo-Memphis	86	94	93	90

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing /AMS/USDA

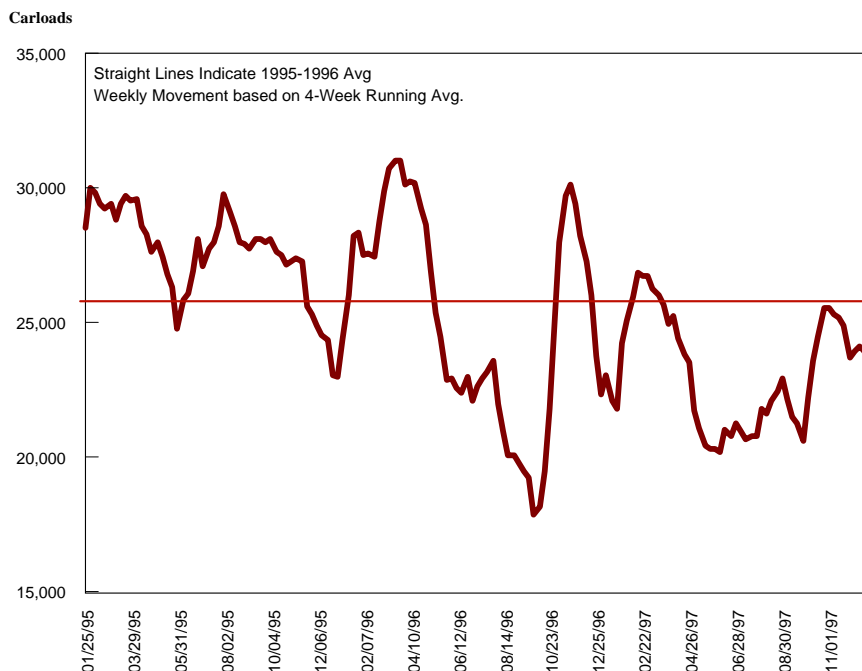
nq- no quote

\* Merchants Exchange of St. Louis Daily Barge Call Session

Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates  
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'

## Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
1/24/98	25,228
1/31/98	24,320
2/7/98	26,434
Year to Date - 1998	125,439
Year to Date - 1997	123,316
Total 1997	1,199,995
Total 1996	1,235,123
Source: American Association of Railroads	



## Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

## Carloads

	Conrail		East		West			Canada	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
02/07/98	655	2,435	1,569	2,440	10,942	826	7,567	2,764	3,718
This Week Last Year	462	2,532	2,161	3,193	8,510	651	8,643	1,989	3,082
1998 YTD	4,225	13,293	6,297	13,424	48,187	3,525	36,488	14,235	20,419
1997 YTD	2,344	11,796	9,174	14,544	41,009	3,055	40,827	12,110	18,565
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387
1995 Total	37,851	133,755	61,612	139,043	410,274	34,393	447,786		

Source: American Association of Railroads

## Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

## February 1998

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
01/17/98	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$18.60	\$0.62
11/06/97	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,027	\$36.54	\$1.21
11/17/97	46531	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$13.16	\$0.44
01/13/98	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,812	\$34.59	\$1.14
01/13/98	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,505	\$31.81	\$1.05
09/16/97	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
01/15/98	33111	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$11.57	\$0.41
10/01/97	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$20.75	\$0.73
09/16/97	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
11/16/97	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,080	\$27.95	\$0.92
11/16/97	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

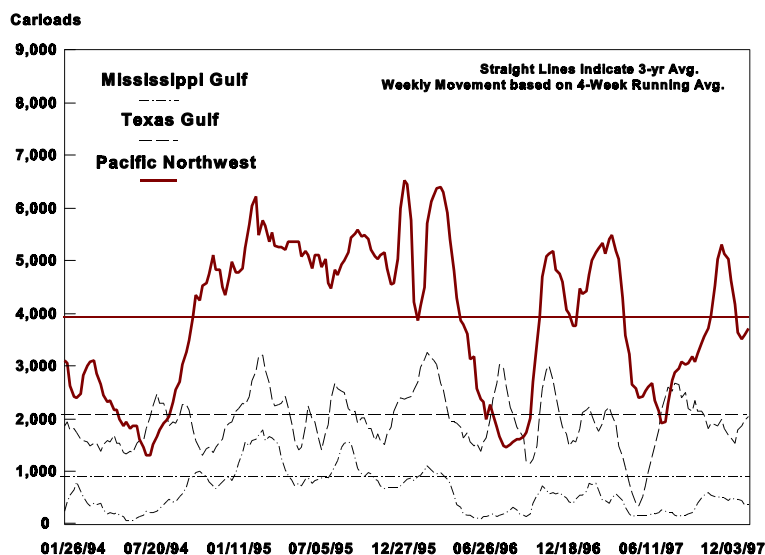
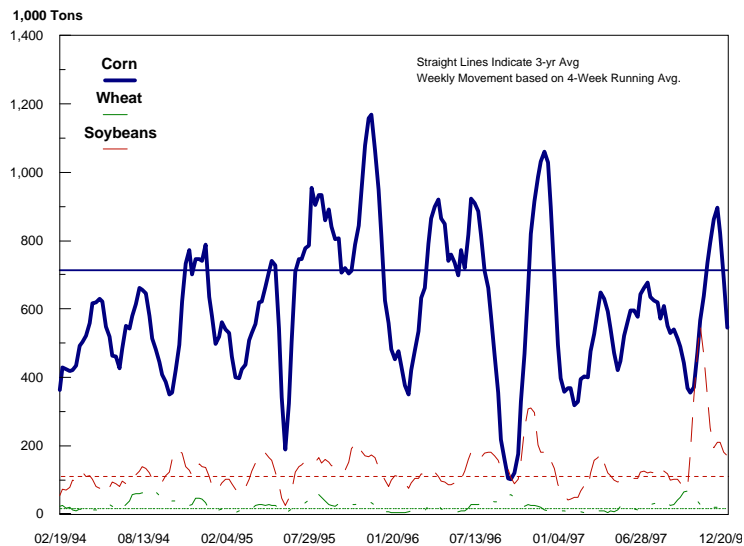
Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat &amp; Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

**Rail Deliveries to Port**

Carloads

	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
01/21/98	424	2,053	3,562	111
01/28/98	212	2,180	4,712	918
02/04/98	601	2,582	4,253	562
YTD 1998	1,952	10,545	21,681	1,956
YTD 1997	2,690	9,650	22,081	1,224
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	194,905	9,147
Total 1996	25,899	113,804	199,709	11,304

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing/AMS/USDA

**Rail Deliveries to Port****Barge Movements - Locks 27****Barge Grain Movements  
for week ending 02/07/98**

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL(L15)	closed for winter			
Winfield, MO (L25)	closed for repairs			
Alton, IL (L26)	520	0	194	728
Granite City, IL (L27)	526	5	186	731
Illinois River				
(L8)	391	0	143	534
Ohio (L52)	39	3	29	251
Arkansas (L1)	0	35	20	56
1998 YTD	2,557	107	969	4,239
1997 YTD	2,436	152	699	4,015
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Total 1996	34,210	2,348	8,297	48,963

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.  
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

**U.S. Export Balances\*** (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
02/05/98	1,344	471	799	464	155	3,234	6,727	3,514	13,475
This Week Year Ago	734	182	978	557	216	2,667	9,296	4,443	16,406
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
97/98 YTD	7,024	4,040	4,438	4,193	954	20,649	16,276	16,628	53,553
96/97 YTD	5,948	3,408	5,682	4,283	623	19,943	21,656	14,803	56,402
95/96 Total	9,867	6,792	8,918	6,443	897	32,917	55,769	23,550	112,236
94/95 Total	10,157	5,453	7,686	5,837	893	30,026	54,742	23,410	108,178

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (fas.usda.gov) Crop Year: Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn &amp; Soybeans=9/01-8/31

**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export** - 1,000 Metric Tons

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
02/12/98	152	216	0	199	714	483	37	0	9
1998 YTD **	1,452	1,049	102	959	3,772	3,328	883	0	338
1997 YTD **	1,599	1,520	385	358	4,928	3,984	406	558	215
% of Last Year	91%	69%	26%	268%	77%	84%	217%	0%	157%
1997 Total	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014

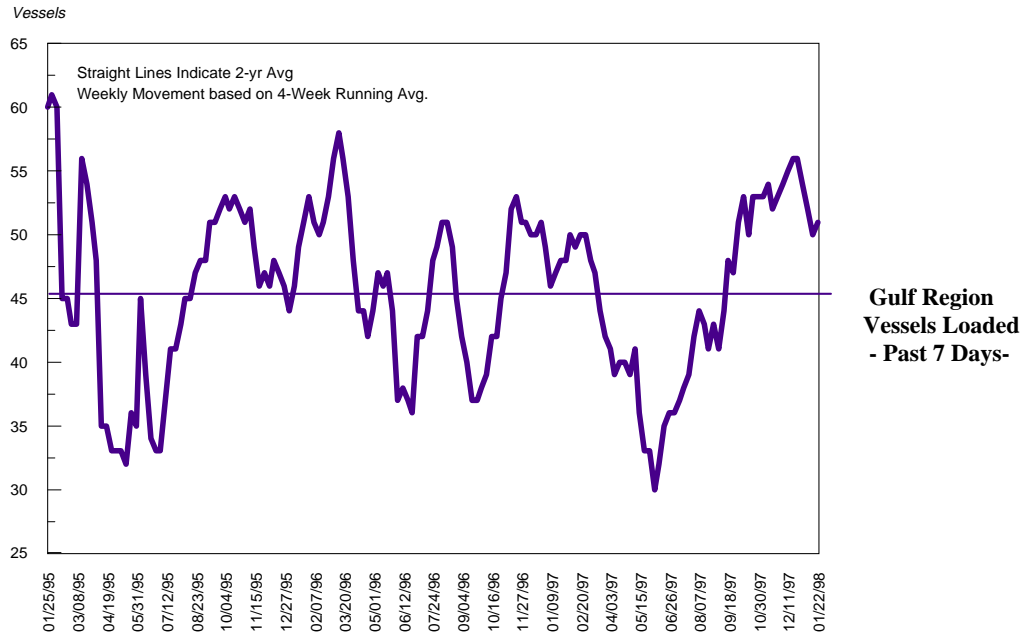
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\* YTD-Year-to-Date

**Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections**

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 2/6/98			
Vancouver	3,726	643	652
Prince Rupert	2,283	0	299
Prairie Direct	591	192	204
Thunder Bay	300	267	208
St. Lawrence	2,757	1,155	8
1997 YTD Exports	9,657	2,257	1,371
1996 YTD Exports	6,738	2,160	1,946
% of Last Year	143%	104%	70%

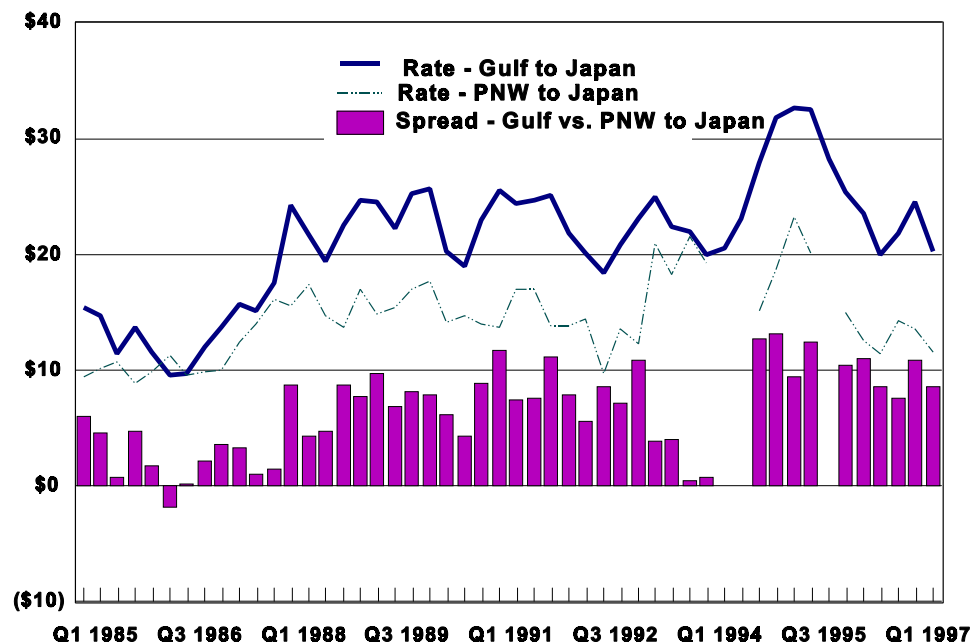
Source: Canadian Grains Commission \*Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago \*\* YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>
02/05/98	52	52	84				10	8	7
02/12/98	62	56	58				11	13	8
1996 Range	(17..46)	(38..61)	(27..88)						
1995 Range	(11..67)	(22..64)	(31..90)						
1996 Avg	37	46	62						
1995 Avg	31	45	60						
1995 Avg	31	46	61						

Source: Transportation & Marketing - AMS - USDA

US\$/Metric Ton

Quarterly Ocean  
Freight Rates**Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates**

Weighted Average Rates &amp; Vessel Size, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1997 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	1996 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	% Change		1997 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	1996 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	% Change
<b>Gulf to</b>				<b>Pacific NW to</b>			
Japan	\$22.01	\$22.64	-3%	Japan	\$13.34	\$14.66	-9%
Mexico	\$13.97	\$14.96	-7%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$20.18	\$22.74	-11%
Venezuela	\$13.59	\$12.62	8%				
N. Europe	\$11.34	\$13.28	-15%	<b>Argentina to</b>			
N. Africa	\$14.80	\$15.87	-7%	N. Europe	\$16.12	\$18.15	-11%
				Japan	\$23.23	\$30.37	14%

Source: Transportation &amp; Marketing - AMS - USDA

**Ocean Freight Rates**

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Vessel Size (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
St. Lawrence	Italy	Wheat	February	22,000	\$14.90
Gulf	Rotterdam	Grains	February	50,000-60,000	\$7.50-\$8.15
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	March	40,000-54,000	\$16.50-\$17.50
Gulf	Spain (Med.)	Heavy Grain	February	25,000	\$9.25
Gulf	China	Meals	February/March	20,000-50,000	\$18.50
Gulf	Morocco	Heavy Grain	February	30,000	\$11.00
So. Brazil	China	Heavy Grain	March	55,000	\$18.50
River Plate (Argentina)	Libya	Wheat	February	25,000	\$20.50
Vancouver (BC)	Mexico (East Coast)	Heavy Grain	February	32,000	\$15.75
Victoria (BC)	Egypt	Wheat	March	50,000	\$9.00

Source: Maritime Research Inc.